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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 22, 2003**

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### **PHOENIX WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, and the Office of the Inspector General/Social Security Administration, announced today that on January 22, 2003, **MARY ANTHONY VOSBURGH**, age 52, a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, entered a plea of guilty to theft of government property and defrauding Social Security programs of \$160,645. The Criminal Indictment resulted from an investigation conducted by Special Agents from the Phoenix office of the Social Security Administration/Office of Inspector General.

According to the Indictment, **VOSBURGH**, whose name was on a joint account with her deceased mother, continued to receive and spend for her own personal use Social Security Widow's benefits deposited into her deceased mother's account. **VOSBURGH** admitted executing a clever ruse to conceal her mother's death from the Social Security Administration by having an acquaintance pose as her deceased mother when SSA field office personnel conducted home visits. Sentencing before United States District Judge Susan R. Bolton is scheduled for April 7, 2003. **VOSBURGH** faces a maximum penalty of imprisonment for not more than ten years or a fine of \$250,000.00, or both.

The investigation that led to the indictment and guilty plea was conducted by Agents from the Phoenix office of the Social Security Administration/Office of Inspector General, and is the result of a joint

effort between the Department of Justice [United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona] and the Social Security Administration/Office of the Inspector General, to identify and prosecute identity theft and fraud against Social Security benefit programs.

This case was handled by John K. Webb, Special Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR 02-00868-PHX-SRB  
RELEASE NUMBER 2003-010